

Bethel Bible Series

The Nature of Jesus

Review - NT Studies 1-5

"He's only human" is no excuse. So was Jesus. - PK

Welcome

Opening - What is your favorite concept or lesson from the Old Testament?
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

New Testament Study 1 - *In the Fullness of Time*

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Non-canonical books written and circulated in 200 BC - 100 AD
Good for historical and ethical reading, not for doctrinal teaching
Apocrypha - Greek for *hidden*
Pseudepigrapha - Greek for *false authorship*

The Intertestamental Period

Persian Period (539-333 BC)
Exiles returned, Jerusalem rebuilt, God Law reinstated
Greek Period (333-63 BC)
Alexander the Great built the Greek Empire by eastern conquests
Greeks promoted Hellenism (Greek thought, culture, lifestyle)
Greek became world-wide language, OT translated into Greek (Septuagint)
Sabbath squelched, temple desecrated, circumcision banned by Antiochus
Maccabean and Hasmonean Periods (165-63 BC)
Family of priests led revolt and won independence for Jews
Temple was cleansed and rededicated (celebrated at Hanukkah)
Pharisees, Sadducees and other groups emerged
Rome intervened when two brothers fought for leadership
Roman Period (63 BC -)
Herod the Great was appointed governor of Galilee and *King of the Jews*
Herod's paranoia led to deaths of royal family and innocent babies
Territory was divided between Herod's sons, Judea later had procurators

In the Fullness of Time

Hour Glass = *When the time had fully come* (Galatians 4:4-5)

Sword = World was brought together by conquests of Alexander the Great

Greek Pillar = Cultural barriers were removed by spread of Hellenism

Greek Letters = Common language allowed unhindered communications

Golden Eagle = Roman rule and unity left no question for power struggles

White Flag = People lived without fear under the Pax Romana (Roman Peace)

Roads to Coliseum = Network of roads was built for quick army response

Manuscript = Hebrew Traditions and Dispersions

Clasped Hands = Foreign gods and philosophy led to spiritual confusion

Bowed Head = The Roman way of life was filled with moral corruption

Upraised Arms = Many searched for decency and justice

Bethel Bible Series

In the Fullness of Time

Page 2

New Testament Study 2 - *The Word Became Flesh*

First Century Jewish Worship Centers

The Temple

Central place to look to God and present offerings and sacrifices
Original temple built by Solomon, Destroyed by Babylonians at exile
Post-exile temple expanded and embellished by Herod the Great

The Synagogue (*Greek for Coming Together*)

Local gathering place for worship, Bible Study, public meetings
Originated during Babylonian captivity when there was no temple
Where Jesus and Paul taught in towns they visited

First Century Jewish Movements

Pharisees

Lay movement focused entirely on keeping God's Law, Led synagogues
Accepted OT books, believed dead would rise when Messiah came

Sadducees

Snobbish priests and nobility, Accepted Pentateuch, Focused on worship rituals
Rejected Pharisee law, resurrection, afterlife, angels

Zealots

Militant group who opposed foreign domination, Fell at Masada in 73 AD

Scribes

Experts of God's Law, Were judges in the Sanhedrin, Evolved into rabbis

Essenes

Pious sect separated from society, Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran, 150BC-70AD
Celibate (adopted babies), lived communally, objected to temple and sacrifices

Who Was Jesus? - Names Given By Others

Jesus (physical name)

Son, Brother

Son of David

Rabbi (Teacher)

Great Prophet

Lord, King

Son of God

God With Us (Immanuel)

Lamb of God

Savior (Jesus, Joshua)

The Anointed One

Christ, Messiah

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-3 = *In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God.*

John 1:14a = *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

John 14:9 = *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*

Bethel Bible Series

In the Fullness of Time

Page 3

New Testament Study 3 - *Jesus the Man*

The Mystery of The Trinity

There is only one God

There are 3 Persons in that one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Though each Person is fully God, each Person is distinct from the other 2

Wrong Concepts of The Trinity

The Trinity by Division = $1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 1$ - Each Person is 1/3 of God

The Trinity by Addition = $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ - 3 separate Gods

The Trinity by Shiftwork = God takes turns at each job

The Trinity by Succession = Father created Son and Spirit is His power

Creeds, Our Statements of Faith

Nicene Creed - Speaks to the divinity of Jesus

Apostles' Creed - Speaks to the humanity of Jesus

Outlines Christ's descent of humility and ascent of exaltation

Both God and Man

Jesus was both fully God and fully man

Jesus as God revealed Himself and His plan to His world

Jesus as man gave us the perfect example of how we are to live as humans

The Human Nature of Jesus

Temptation

Friendship

Fatigue

Sorrow

Mourning

Hunger

Fear

Anger

Thirst

Jesus - The New Adam

Similarities

Born in the fullness of God's image

Born without sin

Tempted by Satan

Called to live within a limited freedom

Differences

Yearning for greatness

Introduce death vs. resurrection

Jesus the Man

Kneeling Figure = Jesus of Nazareth - The Messiah, though God, was totally human

Cradle and Infant = Born of a woman

Hand and Dust = True creature of the earth, had all of original man's attributes

Halo Behind Head = Born in the image and likeness of God

Bowed Head = Had a perfect willingness to follow the will of the Father instead of His own

Crown = Crown of God's creation, Showed man as God designed him to be

Flower-decked Staff = Perfectly obedient, He had full powers, promises and potentials of man

Shaft of Light = Displayed a fulfilled humanity, This is my beloved Son...

Bethel Bible Series

In the Fullness of Time

Page 4

New Testament Study 4 - *Jesus, Spokesman to Distortion*

Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King

The Anointed One (Greek - *Christ*, Hebrew - *Messiah*)

Jesus was physically anointed at His baptism

Prophets, Priests and Kings were anointed into God's service

The Jews recognized Jesus as a great prophet

Jesus was the Great High Priest by becoming the ultimate sacrifice

Jesus is King of kings, not of this world

The Role of a Prophet

United for a Destiny - Old Testament Study 6

God blessed Israel with Uniting Factors to allow her to be a blessing

Israel forgot they were means to an end and made them ends in themselves

Recalling a Destiny - Old Testament Study 14

God called prophets to remind Israel of her destiny

Even after returning from exile and rededicating herself to God's service,

Israel reverted back to focusing on the factors,

thereby distorting God's plan to Bless Israel to be a Blessing

A new prophet was needed who would guide a new Israel into her destiny

Jesus' Response to Distortion

Jesus responded to this distortion with His words and actions

by continually trying to lead the Jews back to the purpose of the factors

Matthew 22:34-40 - Summarized Law in two Great Commandments

Matthew 5:17 - Didn't come to abolish Law or Prophets but to fulfill them

Jesus - Spokesman to Distortion

Law Tablets = Israel's moral, civil and ceremonial Laws (L)

Scroll = Israel's Traditions (T)

White Band Around Tablets and Scroll = Israel's emphasis on Separation (S)

Bright Sky and White Clouds Behind Symbols = LT&S originally intended for good purpose

Distorted Reflection in Water = As time passed, LT&S were put to distorted use

Hands Reaching out of Water = Distorted use of the good tended to destroy life

Figure = Jesus of Nazareth

Figure Facing Distortion in Water = Jesus spoke to distortion and proper use of LT&S

Figure in Stance of a Rescuer = Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets

Bethel Bible Series

In the Fullness of Time

Page 5

New Testament Study 5 - *Jesus the Teacher*

First Century Education

Beth-Sefer = House of the Book, 6-10, Local rabbi in synagogue, Memorized Torah

Beth-Talmud = House of the Teaching, 10-14, Only the best, Memorized scriptures, Jewish questioning

Beth-Midrash = House of Interpretation, 14+, Only best of the best, Emulate rabbi to become rabbi

The Rabbi's Yoke

Yoke = What rabbi added to Scriptures, Jesus' yoke is easy and light

Yoke binds and loosens = Things forbidden and permitted

Rabbi tested disciples with questions = Identify those who could perpetuate his yoke, released others

Come, follow me = Rabbi's invitation of full-time discipleship to disciples who proved themselves

Jesus' disciples = Undeserved calls by grace, Left all to follow Him

Shmihah = A new yoke that wasn't copied from other rabbis, Translated as *authority*

You have heard it said ..., but I tell you ... = Jesus used this phrase often

2 rabbis with Shmihah laid hands on Rabbi with new Shmihah = John the Baptist & God the Father

Jesus the Teacher

Lighted Lamp = As a teacher, Jesus cast heaven's light on important issues

Parted Curtains = He unveils the hidden and makes known the unknown

Great Crown Over Earth = He declares the Father is Sovereign of heaven & earth

First Diamond in Crown = He proclaims God's will & purpose for ALL to be saved

Second Diamond in Crown = He reveals the nature of God (God made visible)

Small Crown at End of Staff = He reveals the true nature and purpose of man

Beams from Crown Bathe Kneeling Figure = He taught us to live in God's presence

Discarded Masks = He calls us to abandon the false values of life

Storm Clouds = He identifies the threats to our relationship with God

Towel and Basin = He gives the responsibilities of a right relationship with God

Evaluate Motives

Love Others

Forgive Others

Serve Others

Make Disciples

Flower Bed = He declares the promises, powers & blessings of the God-filled

Power Over Satan

Forgiveness of Sins

Eternal Life

Diamond and Key = He asserts that God's treasures are appropriated by FAITH

Closing Prayer

Next Week - *Jesus the Savior*